Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1 – 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (previously presented) A composition for treating a skin disorder, comprising

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; and

an active ingredient of inorganic ions comprising potassium and at least a second ion selected from the group consisting of rubidium, zinc, and calcium, wherein the composition is substantially free of lead.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein the pH of the composition if between about 4 and about 7.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 23, wherein the pH of the composition is between about 4.5 and about 5.5.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein the choice of carrier results in a composition which is therapeutically amenable with an open wound when applied to the open wound over a period of multiple days.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 25, wherein the period of days extends to at least six weeks.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein the composition contains up to about ten parts by weight of additional inorganic ions.

Claim 28 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein said potassium is derived from potassium hydroxide or potassium carbonate.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein said calcium, if present, is derived from calcium hydroxide, said potassium is derived from potassium hydroxide or potassium carbonate, and said zinc, if present, is derived from zinc sulfate or zinc oxide, and said rubidium, if present, is derived from rubidium hydroxide.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein said carrier comprises water.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 22, wherein said composition comprises 10-80 parts by weight of potassium ions, 0.00001-20 parts by weight of zinc ions, 0.01 – 10 parts by weight of calcium ions and up to 40 parts by weight of rubidium ions and said composition is substantially free of lead.

Claim 32 (previously presented) The composition of Claim 31, wherein the composition comprises from 40% to 80% by weight of solids extracted from oak bark.

Claim 33 (previously presented) A method for treating a skin lesion associated with a patient comprising applying to the lesion an effective amount of a therapeutic composition comprising therapeutically effective amounts of the composition including an active ingredient of inorganic ions comprising potassium and at least a second ion selected from the group consisting of rubidium, zinc, and calcium, wherein the composition is substantially free of lead.

Claim 34 (amended) The method of Claim ~~31~~ 33 wherein said composition is applied to the skin lesion over a period of multiple days.

Claim 35 (previously presented) The method of Claim ~~32~~ 34 wherein said composition is applied topically.

Claim 36 (previously presented) A method of treating a skin disorder comprising providing a therapeutic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active

ingredient of inorganic ions comprising potassium and at least one other ion selected form the group consisting of rubidium, zinc, and calcium, wherein the composition is substantially free of lead; and applying the composition to the skin.

Claim 37 (previously presented) The method of Claim ~~34~~ 36, wherein the skin disorder is selected form the group consisting of wrinkles, keloids, cancers, scars, psoriasis, insect bites, herpes simplex Type I, herpes simplex Type II, eczema, rosacea, fungal infection, minor infection, minor burns, sunburn, poison oak, poison ivy, poison sumac, wound healing, pyodermas, decubitus ulcers, tropical ulcers, impetigo, Kaposi sarcoma, warts, gangrene, ischemic ulcer, keratosis, precancerous lesions, basal cell epithelioma, squamous cell carcinoma, keratoacanthoma, and acute cancerous ulcers.

Claim 38 (previously presented) A composition for treating a skin disorder, comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; and

an active ingredient of inorganic ions comprising potassium and at least one other ion selected from the group consisting of rubidium, zinc, and calcium, wherein the composition has a pH of approximately 4-7.

Claim 39 (previously presented) The composition of Claim ~~36~~ 38, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is selected from the group consisting of ointments, creams, hydrogels, alginates, and kerosol.

Claim 40 (previously presented) A method for treating a skin disorder comprising

providing a therapeutic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active ingredient of inorganic ions comprising potassium and at least one other ion selected from the group consisting of rubidium, zinc, and calcium, wherein the composition has a pH of approximately

4-7;

and applying the composition to the skin.

Claim 41 (previously presented) The method of Claim ~~24~~ 40, wherein the skin disorder is selected from the group consisting of wrinkles, keloids, cancers, scars, psoriasis, inset bites, herpes simplex Type I, herpes simplex Type II, eczema, rosacea, fungal infection, minor infection, minor burns, sunburn, poisons oak, poison ivy, poison sumac, wound healing, pyodermas, decubitus ulcers, tropical ulcers, impetigo, Kaposi sarcoma, warts, gangrene, ischemic ulcer, keratosis, precancerous lesions, basal cell epithelioma, squamous cell carcinoma, keratoacanthoma, and acute cancerous ulcers.